



May 1 - 8, 2014

ESEA Flexibility Waiver

New: ESEA Flexibility Waiver Extension Request Public Comment Notice and Webinar

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) is providing this public notice to solicit comments from local educational agencies (LEAs), other local education stakeholders, and the general public regarding DC's ESEA Flexibility Waiver Extension Request. DC's ESEA Flexibility Waiver was approved by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) in July 2012 and the request for the extension of the ESEA Flexibility Waiver will apply to the 2014-2015 school year, if approved. This extension request incorporates plans to improve implementation according to the approved waiver as well as amendments to the original waiver.

Prior to submission, OSSE will host a webinar to discuss the extension request and specific amendments. To participate in the Overview of the ESEA Flexibility Waiver Extension Request Submission webinar on Thursday, May 8 from 4:00pm- 5:00pm, please [register via GoToMeeting](#).

To provide comments on OSSE's Extension request, please submit your comments in writing to Iris Bond-Gill at osse.esewaiver@dc.gov. Comments received will be forwarded to the USDE with the requested amendments. OSSE will accept comments between Monday, April 28, 2014 and Friday, May 9, 2014, via electronic submission.

Visit [OSSE's Extension Request page](#) for more information.



Enrollment Audit

Reminder: Enrollment Audit Residency Verification Documentation and Guidance

OSSE has provided residency verification training to all LEAs for SY2014-2015. Please access the OSSE website for [training presentations, translated forms and resource materials](#). For questions and concerns, please contact [Mr. Sean Flora](#) for further clarification.



Division of Early Learning

Reminder: Professional Development Course Catalog

The [Spring FY 2014 Course Catalog](#) has been developed to provide the early childhood education (ECE) and Out-of-School Time (OST) workforces with multiple opportunities for professional growth and development; opportunities for meeting the yearly continuing education requirements; and opportunities to participate in a District-wide professional learning community. Please access the Spring FY 2014 Professional Development Course Catalog to check out the learning opportunities.



Division of Early Learning (Continued)

Contact [Dana Caffee-Glenn](#), Professional Development Coordinator at the Early Learning Professional Development Unit, via email for additional questions.

Reminder: Child Care Emergency Preparedness Online Workshop

Improve your skills and take your practice to the next level by ensuring that all the children in your care will be protected during emergencies.

Please access the online workshop through the U.S. Center for Child Development and Resiliency to complete the [Save the Children's Child Care Emergency Preparedness Training](#).

Reminder: The Pre-K Classroom Technical Assistance and Comprehensive Service Vendor Form

The Pre-Kindergarten Grantee contractor approval form has been renamed to the Pre-Kindergarten Classroom TA and Comprehensive Services Approval Form. As a reminder, vendors should be selected from the OSSE Approved Trainer list.

Please submit all Pre-Kindergarten Classroom TA and Comprehensive Services Vendor Approval Forms to [NyKisha Haley](#).

Approval Form submission deadline is as follows:

- Thursday, May 15, 2014

For a copy of the Pre-K Classroom TA and Comp, please contact [NyKisha Haley](#).

Division of Elementary & Secondary Education

Reminder: School of Rock 2014: Dive Deep Application Deadline Extended

Free Summer Experience for DC High School Teachers: Travel to University of Delaware, Lewes for this amazing interdisciplinary experience. Work in high tech labs with microbiologists who are investigating the ecosystems and microbial diversity below the seafloor and geologists who search for clues to Earth's evolutionary history through the study of microfossils. Develop NGSS aligned lessons and materials for your classroom in the 2014-2015 school year! Participating teachers will receive PLU's towards recertification.

Access more information here:

[Dive Deep Immersive NGSS Summer Experience for HS Science Teachers](#)

For more information please contact by email [Maya Garcia](#).



Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (Continued)

Reminder: Moving Toward NGSS: Connecting Science to Common Core with Picture-Perfect Science Lessons (ES Teachers)

This short course will provide practical insights into connecting science and literacy standards in elementary classrooms. NSTA is providing a series of online short courses to help educators prepare for the implementation of the standards. Each of these courses involves a series of three web seminars along with asynchronous activities on topics that are essential for successful teaching and learning.

Access and learn more about, [National Science Teachers Association, NGSS Online Short Course](#)

For more information please contact by email [Maya Garcia](#).

Reminder: DC Elementary Science Fair, June 7 at Takoma Education Campus

The DC Elementary STEM Fair is open to students in grades 3 through 5 in DC's public, public charter, private and parochial schools. Each school may send the top five projects from their school fairs.

[Access more information and to register projects!](#)

For questions and more information please contact by email [James Rountree](#).

Reminder: Carnegie Academy for Science Education Announces sciLIFE-DC

sciLIFE-DC is an outreach partnership of the Carnegie Institution for Science and many metro area colleagues, institutions, agencies and businesses, with support from the Association of American Medical Colleges and the National Institutes of Health. We are delighted to co-host this event with the Department of Forensic Sciences at George Washington University!

D.C. middle school teachers, parents and guardians, Carnegie Academy for Science Education invites you to bring all middle school students to sciLIFE-DC.

sciLIFE-DC is an event exclusively geared towards middle school students who are residents of the District of Columbia and attend public schools (or home-schooled) in the District.

sciLIFE-DC is an "ALL-DAY" Program that will provide middle school students with the opportunity to "jump start" their future by meeting with professionals in and advanced students (college/graduate/pre-professionals) still developing their career paths in the Bio-Medical and STEM related career fields.

Save the Date! The event is free, come to lunch and jump start your future.

Date: Thursday, May 22, 2014

Time: 10:00am – 2:00pm

Location: George Washington University, Mount Vernon College Campus



Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (Continued)

Lunch, Snacks and Goodies provided and guided tours for teachers.

For information and updates contact [Dr. Toby Horn](#) by email with subject line – “sciLIFE-DC” or visit [Carnegie Academy for Science Education website](#).

Registration is required so [register today!](#)

[Permission form signed by parent/guardian for students under age 18 can be downloaded.](#)

For more information please contact [Maya Garcia](#)

Final Notice: Girls Love STEM Conference

The National Society of Black Engineers, Washington D.C. Professionals Chapter (NSBE DC) is hosting its first Girls Love STEM Conference on May 3, 2014 at Trinity Washington University for 6-12th grade girls!!! The main goal of this conference is to spark and keep girls interested in STEM and to motivate girls to pursue STEM careers. Through the conference, NSBE DC hopes to improve girls' attitudes about STEM and encourage successful outcomes such as completion of mathematics and science courses, reduce dropout rates, improve reading and mathematics test scores, and increase college attendance.

Workshops include:

- Circuit Workshop Presented by IBM
- How Computers Work Presented by IT Computer Wiz Kids
- 3-D Printing Workshop Presented by BestBuy Geek Squad
- Digital Photography Presented by BestBuy Geek Squad
- The Creative Side of Tech Presented by DC Web Women
- Liquid Nitrogen Ice Cream Demo by BestBuy Geek Squad
- Adventures In Flight Presented by NSBE DC

Event Details

Who: Female students in 6th through 12th grades

Location: Trinity Washington University, 125 Michigan Ave NE, Washington

Time/When: Saturday, May 3, 2014, 8:30am to 4:00pm

Registration

For more information please contact by email [Maya Garcia](#)

Reminder: Cutting to the Core Training

Teach Plus and teachers from across Washington, DC will be hosting a collaborative training in understanding the Common Core State Standards (CCSS).



LEA LOOK FORWARD

Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (Continued)

Please **Save the Date** and visit teachplus.org to RSVP

- Wednesday, May 21, 2014



Division of Post-Secondary & Career Education

New: Building Team Capacity for High School & College Readiness

The Early College & Career Awareness PD series allows practitioners to share best practices in getting middle grades students ready for transition to high school and expanding early awareness of college and career pathways. This session will explore strategies for counselors, administrators, CBOs, and teachers to partner around high school readiness and college and career exposure. The leadership team from Columbia Heights Education Campus (CHEC) will work with participants to build capacity among their own teams.

Date: May 12, 2014

Time: 9:00am - 12:00pm

Location: 810 First Street, NE, 8th Floor, Room 806

For questions and inquiries, please contact by email [Chloe Woodward-Magrane](mailto:Chloe.Woodward-Magrane).

New: DC TAG Extended Hours in May

For the 2014/2015 DC TAG Application season, extended hours will be available to submit supporting documents for the DC TAG award on **Thursday, May 15, 2014** from 8:30am - 8:00pm and on **Saturday, May 17, 2014** from 9:00am - 1:00pm.

For questions and inquiries, please call (202) 727-2824 or visit the OSSE website.

Reminder: Request for Applications for the Career and Technology Education (CTE) Certification Fund

OSSE Adult and Career Education Division invites submission of applications for funding for the CTE Certification Fund. The purpose of this grant is to support eligible LEAs and the University of the District of Columbia Community College (UDC-CC) with full or subsidized payments of certification exams within Priority Career Sectors in the District of Columbia as identified in the CTE Strategic Plan.

Please access the strategic plan and certification fund RFA below:

[CTE Strategic Plan](#)

[CTE Certification Fund RFA](#)



LEA LOOK FORWARD

Division of Post-Secondary & Career Education (Continued)

Reminder: FSA Tool Publishes FAFSA Completion Numbers for the High School Graduating Class of 2014

The US Department of Education is now providing high schools with current data about their FAFSA submissions and completions so that high schools can track their progress and help ensure that their students complete a FAFSA.

[Access information about the FAFSA Completion Tool and view High School Completion Rates.](#)



Division of Specialized Education

New: Compliance Monitoring for Indicators 4b, 9, and 10 to start on May 1, 2014

The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), requires each state to engage in annual monitoring of all LEAs on three items:

1. Indicator 4b- Suspensions and Expulsions: Percent of districts that have: (a) a significant discrepancy, by race or ethnicity, in the rate of suspensions and expulsions of greater than 10 days in a school year for children with IEPs; and (b) policies, procedures or practices that contribute to the significant discrepancy and do not comply with requirements relating to the development and implementation of IEPs, the use of positive behavioral interventions and supports, and procedural safeguards.
2. Indicator 9- Disproportionate Representation as a Result of Inappropriate Identification: Percent of districts with disproportionate representation of racial and ethnic groups in special education and related services that is the result of inappropriate identification.
3. Indicator 10-Disproportionate Representation in Specific Disability Categories: Percent of districts with disproportionate representation of racial and ethnic groups in specific disability categories that is the result of inappropriate identification.

To complete monitoring for indicators 4b, 9, and 10, all LEAs whose data indicate that there may be a discrepancy in one or more of the indicators outlined above participate in a self-study process. OSSE reviews the results of the self-study, and makes findings of noncompliance for LEAs whose self-study materials indicate that the discrepancies in discipline, special education status, or special education category are related to inappropriate policies, procedures, or practices.

In order to meet OSEP's timeline for monitoring on this item, OSSE is monitoring on indicator 4b, 9, and 10 in the spring instead of the fall. This means that many LEAs that just recently participated in indicator 4b, 9, and 10 monitoring may be required to do so again. To decrease the reporting burden for LEAs as OSSE adjusts the monitoring schedule, the activities that each LEA is required to complete have been reduced.



OSSE will send materials to all LEAs that are required to participate in indicator 4b, 9, and 10 monitoring during the first week of May. The information packet will include deadlines for submission of self-study materials and will provide a contact person at OSSE who will support your LEA through the process.

New: Fall 2014 Special Education Data System (SEDS) Release LEA Feedback Session May 9, 2014

The feedback session will be held on May 9, 2014, from 9:00am - 10:30am, at OSSE (810 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20002) in conference room 4002.

New: LEA Tiered Technical Support Model for Special Education Best Practice

DSE has completed an initial review of the results from this audit and has reviewed feedback received from last year's technical assistance efforts to refine its approach to meet LEA needs. Over the course of the next six months, DSE will continue to work with LEAs and other education stakeholders to design a technical assistance model that will best support improved outcomes.

Topic 1: Improving Special Education Data Quality in SEDS to Enhance Student Outcomes

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Division of Specialized Education (Continued)

Specific areas to be addressed include data quality for non-public placements, Extended School Year (ESY) services, transfer of student records, consent for initial provision of services, evaluation timelines, and related service provider management.

Topic 2: Creating Systems and Supports to Enhance Student Outcomes

This webinar, which is informed by trends in data quality, will provide participants with tools to help support them as they (a) develop a structure for effectively communicating with their teams, (b) establish guidelines for school-based training, and (c) develop and monitor systems that will ensure timeliness of IEPs, initial evaluations, and re-evaluations. Participants will be introduced to a checklist that will help them assess where they are in terms of managing their special education programming. After this quick introduction, participants will be guided through a process, using questions from the checklist, that will help them develop or refine procedures to ensure timely IEPs, initial evaluations, and re-evaluations.

Date: May 28, 2014

Time: 2:30pm-4:00pm

[Register here for the Systems and Supports Webinar](#)

Date: June 6, 2014

Time: 10:00am-11:30am

[Register here for the Systems and Supports Webinar](#)

New: Special Education Quality Review (SEQR) Tool

The Special Education Quality Review (SEQR) Tool is a web-based self-assessment tool designed to assist schools, local education agencies (LEAs), and non-public schools in assessing the quality of school-level programming for students with disabilities. The tool uses selected quality indicators to assess present practices and guides users to identify and plan for school level improvements that are aligned with special education best practices. To learn more about the tool and how it can contribute to improved special education practices at your LEA, register to participate in one of the following introductory webinars.

Presenter: OSSE

Date: May 14, 2014 (Non-public session)

Time: 9:00am - 11:00am

[Register here for the SEQR Webinar](#)

New: Student-led IEP Training

Research has shown that students who actively participate throughout the IEP process have higher levels of school engagement and are more likely to achieve their academic and personal goals. Over the past year, OSSE's Division of Specialized Education has developed new tools and resources to assist schools and families in supporting students to take an active role in planning for their future. One of these tools is "The Best Me I Can Be: Implementing Student-led IEPs" in the District of Columbia, a film that documents a demonstration project that began in the 2013-2014 school year.



LEA LOOK FORWARD

Division of Specialized Education (Continued)

This film shares ideas about how students, educators, and parents can be meaningfully involved in the special education planning process. Learn how you can better support student involvement in IEP planning by participating in the following interactive training modules:

1. Getting Started,
2. Building Awareness,
3. Understanding Your IEP,
4. Preparing for Participation, and
5. Student-led IEPs.

Additionally, training participants will:

- View portions of “The Best Me I Can Be” film and learn how to implement highlighted best practices in their own schools;
- Interact with OSSE’s new Secondary Transition resource website and the Student-led IEP Online Toolkit;
- Engage in application activities with resources that facilitate greater student involvement;
- Listen to DC teachers and administrators share the successes and challenges they have experienced in fostering meaningful student involvement throughout the IEP process; and
- Have the opportunity to arrange individualized action planning sessions with OSSE Training & Technical Assistance staff.

Presenter: OSSE

Date: May 28, 2014 and May 29, 2014

Time: 8:30am - 3:30pm

Location: 810 First Street, NE, 8th Floor, Room 806 A & B

[Register here for the Student-led IEP Training](#)

New: Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

Youth Mental Health First Aid is designed to teach parents, family members, caregivers, teachers, school staff, peers, neighbors, health and human services workers, and other caring citizens how to help an adolescent (age 12-18) who is experiencing a mental health or addictions challenge or is in crisis. Youth Mental Health First Aid is primarily designed for adults who regularly interact with young people. The course introduces common mental health challenges for youth, reviews typical adolescent development, and teaches a 5-step action plan for how to help young people in both crisis and non-crisis situations. Topics covered include anxiety, depression, substance use, disorders in which psychosis may occur, disruptive behavior disorders (including AD/HD), and eating disorders.

Presenter: Department of Behavioral Health (DBH)

Date: May 27, 2014

Time: 8:30am - 4:30pm

Location: 810 First Street, NE, 3rd Floor, Grand Hall B

[Register here for the YMHFA Training](#)



LEA LOOK FORWARD

Division of Specialized Education (Continued)

New: Nonviolent Crisis Intervention

The Nonviolent Crisis Intervention training program, developed by Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI), is embraced worldwide as a highly effective behavior management system for organizations committed to providing quality care and services in a respectful, safe environment. The strategies taught in the Nonviolent Crisis Intervention training program provide participants with a proven framework for decision making and problem solving to prevent, de-escalate, and safely respond to disruptive or assaultive behavior.

This event will not go over physical restraint techniques. Please wear comfortable clothing, closed-toed shoes, and bring a water bottle.

Presenter: OSSE

Date: May 12, 2014

Time: 8:30am - 3:30pm

Location: 810 First Street, NE, 3rd Floor, Grand Hall

[Register here for the Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training](#)

New: Behavior Webinar Module III – Functionally Based Behavior Support

Participants will receive an overview of School-wide Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) and how tiered systems are set up to provide targeted and individualized supports for students. This webinar will discuss how to identify a student's function of behavior in order to make data-informed decisions and develop a strong Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP).

Presenter: OSSE

Date: June 3, 2014

Time: 10:00am - 11:30am

[Register here for the Behavior Webinar Module III](#)

New: Due Process Parent Feedback Session

OSSE and the State Advisory Panel (SAP) on Special Education have scheduled a feedback session for parents of students for whom due process complaints have been filed between January 2013 through March 2014. This session is intended to give parents an opportunity to share their experiences for the purpose of planning and continuous improvement.

A flyer for the session will be mailed to families and will be available on OSSE's website. The session is scheduled for Thursday, May 22, 2014 during the SAP's evening meeting, held from 6:00pm- 8:00 pm at OSSE 810 First Street, NE, 3rd Floor Grand Hall – Sides A and B.

If you wish to attend or have any questions, contact Ms. Desirée Brown, Special Project Manager, Community and Parent Relations at osse.dcsap@dc.gov or (202) 741-0271.

[Register here for the event!](#)



LEA LOOK FORWARD

Division of Specialized Education (Continued)

Reminder: Special Education Title 5-E DCMR Chapter 30 Regulatory Review and Strategic Planning Initiative

OSSE is initiating a review of key components of Title 5-E, Chapter 30 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR), the local regulation that governs special education practice in the District of Columbia, with the intention of revising identified key components. In addition, input from the process will be used to inform the development of a new five-year strategic State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) for Special Education.

As part of the regulatory review process, the Division of Specialized Education (DSE) will be releasing surveys and holding topic-specific focus groups on key content area “clusters” to inform the work:

- Transfer of Educational Rights
- Child Find, Evaluation, & Eligibility Determination
- Specialized Instruction & Caseload/Class Size
- Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) & Discipline Procedural Safeguards
- Graduation Pathways, Secondary Transition, & IEP Certificate of Completion

[Access the high-level overview of the initiative’s calendar of events and the OSSE content area review process here.](#)

Focus group reminders will be posted on the OSSE website (osse.dc.gov) and in OSSE newsletters such as the LEA Look Forward.

For more information, contact by email [Jamille Peters](#), Policy Analyst.

Reminder: Proposed COA Regulations and Policy for Public Comment Released

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), Division of Specialized Education (DSE), released for public comment the proposed regulations found at Subtitle A, Title 5, Chapter 28 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (5 DCMR §A-2800-2899) entitled “Certificates of Approval for Non-public Special Education Schools and Programs Serving Students with Disabilities Funded by the District of Columbia and Special Education Rates” and the proposed state policy “Individualized Education Program (IEP) Implementation for Transfer Students Policy.”

[Please access the proposals here.](#)

The proposed regulations and policy were posted for a 60-day public comment period commencing March 28, 2014 and will close May 27, 2014. If you are interested in providing comments, please forward them to the attention of Dr. Amy Maisterra, Assistant Superintendent of Specialized Education, c/o Ms. Grace Chien, Director of Policy, at osse.publiccomment@dc.gov. All comments received by 5:00 p.m. on May 27, 2014 will be considered.

OSSE DSE will hold a public hearing to discuss the proposed regulations and policy on May 6, 2014 from 5:30pm – 7:30pm. Individuals wishing to testify at the hearing should contact [Ms. Christie Weaver](#), Policy Analyst, by email or call on 202-481-3870.



Division of Specialized Education (Continued)

Reminder: OSSE Posts FFY 2014 Draft State Grant Application under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for Public Comment

In order to receive a grant award under Part B of IDEA to support the provision of special education and related services to children with disabilities, each state must complete an annual grant application to the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs.

To ensure an opportunity for the public to provide input, this application must be posted for 60 calendar days and open for public comment for 30 days within the same 60 day period. OSSE's FFY 2014 draft state application and spending plans for IDEA Part B were posted for 60 days on the OSSE website on March 11, 2014.

Members of the public will have the opportunity to make comments on the applications from March 11, 2014, - May 11, 2014. Individuals who wish to do so should direct their comments to Dr. Amy Maisterra, Assistant Superintendent of Special Education, Division of Special Education, by email at osse.publiccomment@dc.gov.

Should you have questions regarding these applications or the public comment period, please direct them by email to the attention of [Ms. Desirée Brown](#) or call on (202) 741-0271.

Please Note: The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has requested that OSSE notify the public that it does not have an appropriation yet. States should use last year's Part B spreadsheet for public participation purposes. As the FFY2014 allocations are not yet available, the numbers posted to meet the 60-day public participation requirement are "draft" and the State will post its 2014 spreadsheet as soon as it becomes available.

Reminder: Specialized Education Policy in Practice Webinar Series

The OSSE Division of Specialized Education Policy in Practice Webinar Series is a new technical assistance initiative that will serve as a valuable resource for local and state level educators and administrators in understanding and implementing state special education policies. This training series is a collection of on-demand webinar videos that cover a wide variety of special education topics, including all DSE special education policies. During each webinar, participants will learn:

- The basic tenets of each special education policy
- The laws and regulations underlying each policy
- Best practices in implementing the policies, including case studies
- Documentation of policies and procedures in the Special Education Data System (SEDS)
- Where to find additional resources



Division of Specialized Education (Continued)

Access the webinar videos below:

<u>Individualized Education Program (IEP) Process Policy</u>
<u>Individualized Education Program (IEP) Amendment Policy</u>
<u>Part B Initial Evaluation/Reevaluation Policy</u>
<u>Comprehensive Child Find Policy</u>
<u>Special Education Transportation Services Policy</u>
<u>Related Services Policy</u>
<u>Extended School Year (ESY) Services Policy</u>
<u>Secondary Transition Policy</u>
<u>Confidentiality of Student Information Policy</u>
<u>Guidance Related to Prohibition on Discrimination Against Children with Disabilities in the Charter School Application During the Enrollment Process & Prohibition on Medication Guidance</u> (2-part webinar)

For questions about this policy webinar project, please contact the DSE Training & Technical Assistance Unit: osse.tta@dc.gov.

Reminder: Division of Specialized Education Technical Assistance Request Form

In an effort to continue to provide high quality technical assistance to LEAs, DSE is happy to provide an online technical assistance request form.

Please access to submit a request for technical assistance at the link provided. Requests will receive a response within 2 business days. Access the [DSE Technical Assistance Request Form](#).

Reminder: Special Education Data System (SEDS) Non-public Point of Contact (NP POC) Quarterly Webinar Series

DSE hosts a quarterly SEDS webinar support series for all Non-public SEDS Point of Contacts (NP POCs). Each webinar will address various SEDS-related topics, including:

- SEDS updates and alerts
- The release of new OSSE special education policies
- OSSE Support Tool updates
- Training tips
- Resources and announcements



Division of Specialized Education (Continued)

All Non-Public SEDS Point of Contacts should plan to attend and participate in these quarterly webinars. Please register for the webinar series using the links below:

Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Time: 10:00am - 11:00am

[Register](#)

Reminder: Special Education Data System (SEDS) – SEDS LEA Data Administrator (LDA) Monthly Webinar Series

DSE hosts a monthly SEDS webinar support series for all LEA Data Administrators. This webinar series takes place on the fourth Wednesday of every month from 10:00am - 11:00am. Each month various SEDS-related topics will be discussed, including:

- SEDS updates and alerts
- The release of new OSSE special education policies
- OSSE Support Tool updates
- Training tips
- Resources and announcements

All LEA Data Administrators should plan to attend and participate in these monthly webinars. Please register for the webinar using the link on the following page:

Date: Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Time: 10:00am - 11:00am

[Register](#)

Reminder: Special Education Quality Review (SEQR) Tool Webinars

The Special Education Quality Review (SEQR) Tool is a web-based self-assessment tool designed to assist schools, local education agencies (LEAs), and non-public schools in assessing the quality of school-level programming for students with disabilities. The tool uses selected quality indicators to assess present practices and guides users to identify and plan for school level improvements that are aligned with special education best practices. To learn more about the tool and how it can contribute to improved special education practices at your LEA, register to participate in one of the following introductory webinars.

Presenter(s): OSSE

Date: Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Time: 9:00am – 10:00am

[Registration](#)





Division of Wellness & Nutrition

Reminder: Active Kids Do Better: Physical Education and Activity Training

Want to raise test scores? Learn about the link between physical activity and academic achievement. This professional development session for school administrators, physical education teachers, and classroom teachers will:

- Highlight the positive connection between physical activity and academic achievement
- Explain how the Healthy Schools Act supports student academic success
- Provide strategies to increase physical education and activity before, during, and after school

The training takes place on May 13, 2014 between 4:00pm and 6:00pm at OSSE, 810 First Street NE.

[Register here!](#)

Reminder: Serve on the DC CAS Health and Physical Education Advisory Board

OSSE is recruiting health and physical education teachers at all grade levels to advise on the future content, structure, and delivery of the DC CAS Health and Physical Education. This advisory board will meet approximately 4 times a year and will be expected to participate in the content and bias review sessions for new test items. Please contact [Grace Friedberger](#) by email to register your interest.

Final Notice: Build Our Kids' Success (BOKS) K-8 New Trainer Training Physical Activity Program

OSSE is working with BOKS (Reebok sponsored physical activity program) in order to conduct a professional development opportunity that will allow instructors to think “outside of the box”; in an attempt to meet the 2014/15 school year physical education and physical activity minute requirements.

BOKS is a curriculum designed to supplement (not replace) an LEA’s physical education program. With a variety of obstacle courses, relay races, and tag games, BOKS is a wonderful resource for any K-8 school to not only meet the minute requirement for next school year; but also, assist our learners in developing skills needed to focus during the school day.

Registration Deadline: May 9, 2014

[Register Here!](#)

Who Should Attend? Teachers, DC educators, school personnel, government employees, parents/guardians, professionals who work on health education and school health, community based organizations who work with schools within the District of Columbia, and early child care staff.

For questions and inquiries please contact [Lance Miller](#), Health and Physical Education Specialist.

Reminder: DC Anti-Bullying Safe Schools Initiative for school-based staff

OSSE invites you and your school staff to participate in a professional development opportunity. Co-sponsored by OSSE and the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) the goal of the 1.5 day PD session is to provide participants with the knowledge, skills and resources to create safe and affirming school environments for all students, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.



LEA LOOK FORWARD

Division of Wellness & Nutrition Services (Continued)

Sessions will be led by certified facilitators from OSSE, DC Public Schools (DCPS) and local government and community based organizations at no cost to participants.

The training course runs over 2 days, and both days are required to complete sessions. Day one is 8 hours and day two is 4.5 hours.

[Indicate your interest to participate in the training!](#)

For questions and inquiries please contact by email [Julie Ost](#) and mention the DC Anti-Bullying Safe Schools Initiative.

Reminder: D.C. Girls Softball Coaches Clinic

On Saturday, June 14, DCSAA will be holding a free Coaches Clinic led by **Tommy Orndorff**, Head Coach of Varsity Softball at Bishop O'Connell High School.

Coach Orndorff brings over 30 years of Softball Coaching Experience at the High School and Club Levels. Highlights include:

- During Coach Orndorff's 28 years at the helm, Bishop O'Connell teams have won the Catholic League softball championship 21 times.
- In State Championship play, his teams have compiled a 58-2 record overall – winning 17 Virginia Independent Schools State Championship titles over the past 19 years.
- Named Coach of the Year for the Washington D.C. metropolitan area by *The Washington Post* in 1986 (22-1) and 1996 (23-0), by the Arlington County Better Sports Club in 1991 (21-1), and by *The Journal Newspapers* in 1994 (25-3). He has also been named Virginia Independent Schools State Coach of the Year 16 of the past 18 seasons by the Virginia Independent Schools Softball Association.
- A perennial power nationally the past 20 years, his Bishop O'Connell program reached new heights the past two springs – posting a 57-2 record overall and finishing both seasons ranked 5th in the country in *The USA Today*/NFCA Scholastic Fastpitch Softball Final Polls.
- Orndorff will be inducted into the National Softball Hall of Fame in November 2014 at the Amateur Softball Association's (ASA) National Convention in Reno, Nevada.

You will be asked to provide the number of years you have been coaching girls softball. The Clinic will cater to the experience level of the attending coaches.

Date: Saturday, June 14, 2014

Time: 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Location: St. John's High School, Roth Gymnasium, 2607 Military Road NW, Chevy Chase, D.C.

[Register for the DCSAA Girls Softball Coaches Clinic](#)



LEA LOOK FORWARD

Division of Wellness & Nutrition Services (Continued)

Final Notice: Strawberries & Salad Greens Recipe Contest Entries Due May 9

Looking for a way to get your school community excited about the Strawberries & Salad Greens Day happening on Wednesday May 21, 2014? Do you have a healthy and delicious recipe using local strawberries and salad greens? Direct them to the [Strawberries and Salad Greens Recipe webpage](#) to find out more and about submitting a recipe for the Strawberries & Salad Greens Day Cookbook.

Creativity and originality are strongly encouraged. Submit your recipes electronically to [Erica Steinhart](#). Submission deadline is **Friday, May 9 at 5:00pm**. Visit the [Strawberries & Salad Greens page](#) for more information on how to get involved in this event.

Reminder: National Federation of State High School Associations 2013-14 Athletics Participation Survey, Due May 30

The District of Columbia is participating in the National Federation of State High School Associations 2013-14 Athletics Participation Survey. It is time for all of our student-athletes to be counted and included in the national survey! All schools should have received a fillable PDF form from the DC State Athletic Association to submit this data. Data should be submitted to [Marie Rudolph](#) by close of business, Friday, May 30, 2014.

Please contact the [Marie Rudolph](#) if you have not received your form or have any questions.



Office of Data Management & Assessment

New: SY14-15 Student Entry and Exit Code Guidance Advisory

OSSE is currently reviewing and updating the student entry and exit (withdrawal) code guidance for SY14-15. LEAs are encouraged to please continue to check the LEA Look Forward newsletter for further information on the process as we approach the coming school year.

For questions and inquiries, please contact [Dr. Laura Maurizi](#).

Reminder: 2014 Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate Verification Deadline Extension

Initial cohorts for 2014 ACGR verification have been released via the [Quickbase application](#). The extended deadline for the cohort verification period is still **Thursday, May 15, 2014**.

If you have any questions about acceptable documentation, the cohort verification process or would like to schedule ACGR Office Hours at your LEA office, please contact by email [Emily Persons](#).

New: FY13 NPEFS/F-33 Data Collection

The annual collection of LEA financial data for the National Public Education Financial Survey (NPEFS) and F-33 surveys is currently underway.



LEA LOOK FORWARD

Office of Data Management & Assessment (Continued)

Templates were emailed to LEA Grants/Finance and Data Managers last Thursday and the completed versions are due back by COB on Friday May 16, 2014.

For more information, please contact [Katie Williams](#).

New: Rescheduled LEA Data Meeting

On Tuesday, May 8, from 1:30pm - 3:00pm on the 3rd Floor Grand Hall, the Office of Data Management and the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education will host and facilitate a follow-up discussion to the March 2014 LEA Data Meeting. Considered agenda items are a continued discussion about truancy policy and reporting requirements, as well as an introductory conversation about entry and exit codes. We welcome additional meeting topic requests at Imani.Stutely@dc.gov.



Office of Grants Management and Compliance

New: Federal Grants Management Conference, June 11, 2014

OSSE's Office of Grants Management and Compliance will host an all-day conference at The Kellogg Center at Gallaudet University on June 11, 2014. Come learn about the Enterprise Grants Management System (EGMS). EGMS automates the entire grant life-cycle process from pre-application to closeout. The management system also improves management of Federal and local grants administered by OSSE, which provides a tangible benefit to all entities and individuals receiving such funding.

[Register now!](#)

For questions contact [Nancy Mahon](#) by email.

Reminder: Volunteers Needed to Test Enterprise Grant Management System (EGMS)

OSSE's Office of Grant Management and Compliance (OGMC) team is implementing an Enterprise Grant Management System (EGMS), and is issuing a call for reviewers to participate in a User Acceptance Training (UAT) for testing. EGMS is a solution intended to provide grant management enhanced operational efficiencies and security architecture, central data storage and warehousing, increased transparency, workflow automation, and process and performance accountability.

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact [Richard K. Rowley](#) or call on (202) 727-3869. Selected individuals will be contributing to groundbreaking grant management trainings.





Chief Information Office

Reminder: FY 2014 Schools Technology Fund

To date the OSSE School Technology Fund (STF) has approved \$3,693,754 for payment to LEAs to upgrade their technology to help students excel at online testing. However, there are still seventeen LEAs that have not submitted their invoices.

OSSE will gladly re-send the STF notification, provide a copy of the purchase order and even provide a draft of the invoice to you or to the point of contact within your organization if you send an email to [Matthew Brownlee](#) or call on (202) 320-4950. OSSE asks that you keep a list of hardware and software purchased with the fund. There will be a survey to collect this information to support the continuation of the fund next year.



Announcements

Reminder: FEMS offers Fire Safety Education Classroom Presentations for Students

Fire and Emergency Medical Services Chief Kenneth Ellerbe strongly supports the philosophy that fire safety is an important topic that should be educated to all residents and visitors of the District of Columbia including children. Highlighted below are a few fire safety educational programs that the District of Columbia Fire & EMS Department (DCFEMS) offers each year that are designed to strengthen elementary and middle school age children's knowledge in the area of fire safety education. These programs are fun and very interactive and can be presented in any classroom setting at the request of any DC Public or Public Charter school teacher or administrator.

Safety Smart about Fire

Safety Smart about Fire is a one-hour program presentation designed for grades K-3 offered by DCFEMS Public Educators to reinforce simple safety principles. Our educators gather the assistance of Disney's Timon and Pumba (via digital media) to reinforce the following learning factors:

- Making A Home Fire Escape Plan & Its Importance
- Smoke Alarms & Their Importance
- Understanding Why Smoke is Poisonous
- The Fundamentals of Getting Down, Getting Out, & Staying Out
- Don't Play With Matches or Lighters

Safety Smart Science (Understanding Fire)

Safety Smart Science is a one-hour program presentation designed for grades 4-8 offered by DCFEMS Fire Educators to reinforce the science behind fire. Through a structured curriculum with activities, educators, with the assistance of Bill Nye the Science guy (via digital media), expand on the science concepts. The program provides opportunities for students to apply research, writing, analytical, and teamwork skills. To schedule a presentation for your students, please contact [Ms. Samone Hoston](#), Fire Education Information Specialist, FEMS Fire Prevention Division at (202) 727-1614



Announcements (Continued)

Reminder: Student and Educator Opportunities

TOMODACHI US-Japan Youth Exchange Program

Summer Program Dates: July 7 - August 8, 2014 (tentative)

Travel to Japan: 2-1/2 weeks in November 2014, with regular meetings throughout SY2014-15

Application Deadline: May 7, 2014

For the second year, CGEL is partnering with American Councils to offer this fully-funded two-way student exchange with Japan for six (6) DC high school students. DCPS and charter school students are eligible to apply. This year's program has three parts: a 5-week program this summer that includes an intensive exchange with visiting Japanese high school students; a 2-1/2 week trip to Japan in November, which includes home stays in Tokyo and a visit to the area of Japan impacted by the 2011 earthquake; and regular meetings throughout the 2014-15 school year. Themes of the exchange are cultural understanding; social entrepreneurship; community engagement; and leadership development. Japanese language instruction will be included. This is a fabulous, innovative exchange. Please encourage interested students to apply.

To learn more about the program and to apply, go to www.usjapanfuture.org. If you have any questions, contact Sally at 202-251-1692 or sally.schwartz@verizon.net.

Young Ambassadors Program to Costa Rica for High School Students

Program Dates: July 6-27, 2014

Application Deadline - extended: April 25, 2014

Registration Deadline: May 8, 2014

Once again, the World Affairs Council - Washington, DC is offering a three-week summer program in Costa Rica to selected DC high school students. Two weeks of the program are held at the Conversa Language School, where students experience an immersive Spanish language experience, participate in culture classes, and stay in the homes of local families.

During the third week, the student's explore the natural wonders of Costa Rica's rich and diverse ecosystems through drives to Pas Volcano, sightseeing in San Jose, and hikes through Monteverde Forest and Cloud Forest. This is a fabulous program. The cost to students is \$1,500 - this is a significantly discounted price!

For more information and to apply, visit https://www.worldaffairsdc.org/ForStudent_YoungAmbassador.aspx. And contact Amanda Stamp at education@worldaffairsdc.org or 202-293-1051.

Teach Africa Youth Forum for High School Students

Program Date: May 15, 2014, 8 am - 2 pm

Registration Deadline: May 8, 2014

Location: US Department of State



Announcements (Continued)

This program is sponsored by the Africa Society of the National Summit on Africa, in partnership with the World Affairs Council-Washington, DC and the US Department of State. This innovative leadership program will give area high school students an opportunity to explore and discuss the topics of the first U.S - African Leaders Summit, including trade and investment, peace and security, democracy and governance. The program will include live satellite exchanges with students in Africa; hands-on problem solving activities; topics such as media literacy and conflict resolution; and promotion of leadership and critical thinking skills.

High school teachers interested in bringing students to this innovative event at the US State Department, should contact Amanda Stamp at WAC-DC at 202-293-1051, or education@worldaffairsdc.org. For more information and a downloadable flyer, visit https://www.worldaffairsdc.org/ForStudents_YouthForums.aspx.

Leadership Academy on International Affairs for High School Students - "Globalization & You"

Program Dates: July 14-18, 2014, 9 am - 3 pm daily

Registration Deadline: May 31, 2014

Location: 1801 K Street, NW

This is a great one-week summer program for high school students focused on international affairs and globalization. Students will hear from experts from international organizations, build communication, leadership and critical thinking skills, gain useful experience for college applications, and practice hands-on simulations. The program cost is \$150. Scholarships are available for those with financial need.

To register and for more information, contact Amanda Stamp at education@worldaffairsdc.org or 202-293-1051. You can find the program flyer at https://www.worldaffairsdc.org/ForStudents_LeadershipAcademy.aspx.

Summer Institute on International Affairs for Educators

Program Dates: June 23-27, 2014

Registration Deadline: May 20, 2014

The World Affairs Council-Washington, DC again offers its week-long Summer Institute on International Affairs for Educators. This year's theme is "Realities & Revolutions: A comparative look at civil society and its pathway to change," which will be explored from a historical and comparative perspective.

Expect an intensive week of expert speakers, hands-on practical application, and developing classroom resources. Participants will receive 40 professional development credits/hours; three (3) graduate credits are available through Howard University (\$300 total).

To register please contact by email Amanda Stamp at education@worldaffairsdc.org or call (202) 293-2051.

For more information and to download the application, visit: https://www.worldaffairsdc.org/ForEducator_SummerInstitute.aspx